

Active Parenting for Stepfamilies

Video 1 – Stepfamily Living: A Different Parenting Challenge

The Purpose of this Video

This “Video Library” version of the group discussion program, Active Parenting for Stepfamilies, is designed for parents to view on their own or in groups when time does not allow for the full two-hour sessions. Because group viewing can be enhanced through discussion, the following questions will help a leader facilitate such a discussion. Most of the questions are aimed at helping parents apply the information in the video to their own lives, and they can be used as part of a large-group discussion or by having participants form pairs or small groups. Ask as many questions as time allows and, of course, feel free to add or delete questions as you think best for your audience.

Experience has shown that parents who read the accompanying Parent’s Guide (sold separately) will best be able to utilize the skills presented in the video.* However, when this is not possible, we suggest that you give each participant a copy of the enclosed “Program at a Glance” brochure. (Permission is granted to photocopy the brochures and this guide.)

Leading a Group Discussion

Introduce the video by asking a few questions, such as:

- What are some ways you’ve found that parenting in a stepfamily differs from parenting in an traditional, intact family?
- What special challenges do you face in a stepfamily?

Play the video and follow with questions such as these:

1. What did you learn or find helpful in this video?
2. The video with the Sosa family showed the importance of healing from loss in a stepfamily. How has this issue played out in your own family?
3. What are some unrealistic expectations that parents and kids in a stepfamily might have?
4. Although the video clearly makes the case for the Active style of parenting, it also mentions some positive aspects of the Dictator and Doormat styles. What’s good about these styles?
5. Why is the Active style of parenting better than the Dictator or Doormat styles in our society?
6. Which style do you use most often? (Note: Let parents know that there is a FREE survey they can use to assess their parenting styles at www.activeparenting.com)
7. Why is it important to give children choices?
8. What are some ways that we can teach our children and stepchildren respect?
9. What are some fun things you can do to enrich your relationship with your children?
10. Why should your marriage be a priority to your stepfamily?